

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) An ophthalmic composition comprising:
an ophthalmically acceptable carrier component; and
a polyanionic component including a first polyanionic component portion having a first weight average molecular weight in a range of about 250,000 to about 700,000; and a second polyanionic component portion having a second weight average molecular weight in a range of about 90,000 to about 250,000; the first and second polyanionic component portions each being present in an amount effective to provide lubrication to an eye when the composition is administered to an eye, the first and second molecular weights being different by at least about 50,000, the first polyanionic component portion and the second polyanionic component portion being selected from the group consisting of anionic cellulosic derivatives and mixtures thereof.

2. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein ~~the first molecular weight is greater than the second molecular weight,~~ and the composition has an increased ability to adhere to an eye when the composition is administered to an eye relative to a substantially identical composition having an equal total amount of the polyanionic component and substantially no first polyanionic component portion.

3. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein ~~the first molecular weight is greater than the second molecular weight,~~ and the composition has a reduced ability to cause blurriness of vision in an eye when the composition is administered to an eye relative to a substantially identical composition having an equal

total amount of the polyanionic component and substantially no second polyanionic component portion.

4. (original) The composition of claim 2 wherein the composition has a reduced ability to cause blurriness of vision in an eye when the composition is administered to an eye relative to a substantially identical composition having an equal total amount of polyanionic component and substantially no second polyanionic component.

Claims 5-8 (canceled)

9. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first and second polyanionic component portions is selected from the group consisting of carboxy methyl celluloses and mixtures thereof.

Claim 10 (canceled)

11. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein each of the first and second polyanionic component portions is present in an amount of at least about 0.1% (w/v) of the composition.

12. (original) The composition of claim 1 which has a viscosity in a range of about 15 cps to about 200 cps.

13. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the polyanionic component is present in an amount in a range of about 0.2% to about 5% (w/v) of the composition.

14. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the polyanionic component is present in an amount in a range of about

0.6% to about 1.8%.

15. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the weight ratio of the first polyanionic component portion and the second polyanionic component portion is in a range of about 0.02 to about 50.

16. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the weight ratio of the first polyanionic component portion and the second polyanionic component portion is in a range of about 0.25 to about 4.

17. (cancel)

18. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the carrier component includes at least one of the following: an effective amount of a buffer component; an effective amount of a tonicity component; an effective amount of a preservative component; and water.

19. (original) The composition of claim 1 where the first and second polyanionic component portions are separately derived.

20. (currently amended) An ophthalmic composition comprising:
an ophthalmically acceptable carrier component; and
a polyanionic component including at least ~~two~~ a first polyanionic component ~~portions~~ portion having a weight average molecular weight in a range of about 250,000 to about 700,000 and a second polyanionic component portion having a weight average molecular weight in a range of about 90,000 to about 250,000, each the first polyanionic component portion having a different weight average molecular weight which differs from the weight average

molecular weight of the second polyanionic component portion by at least about 50,000, and each of the first and second polyanionic component portions being present in an amount of at least about 0.1% w/v of the composition, the at least two polyanionic component portions being selected from the group consisting of anionic cellulosic derivatives and mixtures thereof.

21. (cancel)

22. (cancel)

23. (original) The composition of claim 20 wherein the composition has an increased ability to adhere to an eye when the composition is administered to an eye relative to a substantially identical composition having an equal total amount of polyanionic component and substantially no polyanionic component portion with the greatest molecular weight.

24. (original) The composition of claim 20 wherein the composition has a reduced ability to cause blurriness of vision in an eye when the composition is administered to an eye relative to a substantially identical composition having an equal total amount of polyanionic component and substantially no polyanionic component portion having the lowest molecular weight.

25. (original) The composition of claim 20 wherein each of the polyanionic component portions, other than having different molecular weights, has a substantially similar chemical structure.

Claims 26-27(canceled)

28. (original) The composition of claim 20 wherein all the

polyanionic component portions are selected from the group consisting of carboxyl methyl celluloses and mixtures thereof.

Claim 29 (canceled)

30. (original) The composition of claim 20 wherein each of the polyanionic component portions is present in an amount of at least about 0.2% (w/v) of the composition.

31. (original) The composition of claim 20 which has a viscosity in a range of about 15 cps to about 200 cps.

32. (original) The composition of claim 20 wherein the polyanionic component is present in an amount in a range of about 0.2% to about 5% (w/v) of the composition.

33. (original) The composition of claim 20 wherein the polyanionic component is present in an amount in a range of about 0.6% to about 1.8% (w/v) of the composition.

34. (original) The composition of claim 20 wherein the carrier component includes at least one of the following: an effective amount of a buffer component; an effective amount of a tonicity component; an effective amount of a preservative component; and water.

35. (withdrawn) A method of treating an eye comprising:
administering to the eye an effective lubricating amount of the composition of claim 1.

36. (withdrawn) The method of claim 35 wherein the eye is afflicted with dry eye syndrome or has a propensity toward dry eye

syndrome.

37. (withdrawn) A method of treating an eye comprising:
administering to the eye an effective lubricating amount
of the composition of claim 20.

38. (withdrawn) The method of claim 37 wherein the eye is
afflicted with dry eye syndrome or has a propensity toward dry eye
syndrome.

39. (withdrawn) A method of making an ophthalmic composition
comprising:

forming a mixture of water, and a plurality of
polyanionic component portions, each of the polyanionic component
portions having a different molecular weight:

subjecting the mixture to effective sterilization
conditions to form a sterilized mixture;

forming an additional mixture of water, and at least one
of a buffer component, a tonicity component and a preservative
component; and

combining the sterilized mixture and the additional
mixture to form a product mixture.

40. (withdrawn) The method of claim 39 which further
comprises:

filtering the additional mixture using a sterilizing
filter; and

filtering the final mixture using a clarifying filter.